Cell for Ayurveda in the SAARC Secretariat

797. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up a cell for Ayurveda in the SAARC Secretariat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present for setting up an Ayurvedic Cell in the SAARC Secretariat. At its meeting held in Colombo on August 12—14, 1999, the SAARC Technical Committee on Health, Population and Child Welfare, had held discussion *inter-alia* on cooperation in traditional systems of medicine.

Test of "Kill Vehicle" by United States

798. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item that the US has conducted tests of the "Kill Vehicle" devised under the "Star Wars" nuclear programme and the proposed missile could have many parts of Asia within its range;

(b) whether Government are aware that this move of the US is in violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In October 1999 the US successfully tested an interceptor that destroyed a dummy in-coming ballistic missile using "hit-to-kill" technology. A subsequent test in January 2000 failed and further tests are planned. These tests are part of the US programme to develop defence systems against different kinds of missiles. Russia has stated that the testing and plans for deployment of such systems will be inconsistent with the bilateral 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty that prohibits deployment

of nation-wide ballistic missile defence systems or the creation of the basis for such a defence.

(c) India has consistently opposed weaponisation of outer space and maintains that arms control treaties need to be implemented fully and in good faith to maintain stability. Unilateral actions perceived to be inconsistent with existing treaties may reduce the prospects for further nuclear disarmament, weaken non-proliferation constraints and encourage other nuclear weapon states to reconsider their strategic force modernisation plans.

Extradition Treaties

799. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the countries with which Extradition Treaties signed by Government;

(b) whether it has been proposed to sign Extradition Treaty with Bangladesh Myanmar, Thailand, Bhutan and China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, country-wise status of understanding on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Government of India has signed Extradition Treaties with following eleven countries; Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hongkong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Switzerland, UAE, U.K. and USA.

(b) to (d) (i) Bangladesh, Myanmar, and China: There are at present no proposals to sign Extradition Treaties, with Bangladesh, Myanmar and China.

(ii) Thailand: A draft of Extradition Treaty was proposed to Thailand in 1993. Thereafter, two rounds of delegation level talks have been held in 1995 and 1997. However, it has not been possible to finalise the text.